

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please amend claims 1, 8, 11, 18, 25, 28, 35, 40, and 43, and insert new claims 48-53. A complete listing of the current pending claims is provided below and supersedes all previous claim lists.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of processing a x-ray image, comprising:  
collecting a first x-ray image and a second x-ray image;  
determining a composite image based on the first and second x-ray images;  
collecting a third x-ray image, wherein at least a portion of the first x-ray image and at least a portion of the third x-ray images comprise images of a same portion of an object; and  
enhancing a feature in the third x-ray image by adjusting the third x-ray image based on the composite image.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first, second, and third x-ray images are generated in a sequence.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first, second, and third x-ray images each contains an image of at least a portion of an animal body.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the determining a composite image comprises performing an image averaging on the first and second x-ray images.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the image averaging is performed using a boxcar averaging technique.
6. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the image averaging is performed based on a weighted average.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the adjusting comprises subtracting the composite image from the third x-ray image.
8. (Currently Amended) A system for processing a x-ray image, comprising:  
means for collecting a first x-ray image and a second x-ray image;  
means for determining a composite image based on the first and second x-ray images;  
means for collecting a third x-ray image, wherein at least a portion of the first x-ray image  
and at least a portion of the third x-ray images image comprise images of a same portion of an  
object; and  
means for enhancing a feature in the third x-ray image by adjusting the third x-ray image  
based on the composite image.
9. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the means for determining a composite image  
comprises means for performing an image averaging on the first and second x-ray images.
10. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the means for adjusting comprises means for  
subtracting the composite image from the third x-ray image.
11. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium having a set of stored instructions, the  
execution of which causes a process to be performed, the process comprising:  
collecting a first x-ray image and a second x-ray image;  
determining a composite image based on the first and second x-ray images;  
collecting a third x-ray image, wherein at least a portion of the first x-ray image and at least a  
portion of the third x-ray images image comprise images of a same portion of an object; and  
enhancing a feature in the third x-ray image by adjusting the third x-ray image based on the  
composite image.
12. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein the first, second, and third x-  
ray images are generated in a sequence.

13. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein the first, second, and third x-ray images each contains an image of at least a portion of an animal body.
14. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein the determining a composite image comprises performing an image averaging on the first and second x-ray images.
15. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 14, wherein the image averaging is performed using a boxcar averaging technique.
16. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 14, wherein the image averaging is performed based on a weighted average.
17. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein the adjusting comprises subtracting the composite image from the third x-ray image.
18. (Currently Amended) A method of processing a x-ray image, comprising:
  - collecting one or more x-ray images;
  - determining a composite image based on the one or more x-ray images;
  - collecting an input x-ray image, wherein at least a portion of one of the one or more x-ray images and at least a portion of the input x-ray image comprise images of a same portion of an object; and
  - enhancing a feature of the input x-ray image based on the composite image.
19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the collecting the one or more x-ray images comprises generating the one or more x-ray images in a sequence.
20. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the input x-ray image contains an image of at least a portion of an animal body.

21. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the determining a composite image comprises performing an image averaging on the one or more x-ray images.
22. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the image averaging is performed using a boxcar averaging technique.
23. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the image averaging is performed based on a weighted average.
24. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the enhancing comprises subtracting the composite image from the input x-ray image.
25. (Currently Amended) A system for processing an image, comprising:  
means for collecting one or more x-ray images;  
means for determining a composite image based on the one or more x-ray images;  
means for collecting an input x-ray image, wherein at least a portion of one of the one or more x-ray images and at least a portion of the input x-ray image comprise images of a same portion of an object; and  
means for enhancing a feature of the input x-ray image based on the composite image.
26. (Original) The system of claim 25, wherein the means for determining a composite image comprises means for performing an image averaging on the one or more x-ray images.
27. (Original) The system of claim 25, wherein the means for enhancing comprises means for subtracting the composite image from the input x-ray image.
28. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium having a set of stored instructions, the execution of which causes a process to be performed, the process comprising:  
collecting one or more x-ray images;

determining a composite image based on the one or more x-ray images;  
collecting an input x-ray image, wherein at least a portion of one of the one or more x-ray images and at least a portion of the input x-ray image comprise images of a same portion of an object; and  
enhancing a feature of the input x-ray image based on the composite image.

29. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 28, wherein the collecting the one or more images comprises generating the one or more x-ray images in a sequence.

30. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 28, wherein the input x-ray image contains an image of at least a portion of an animal body.

31. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 28, wherein the determining a composite image comprises performing an image averaging on the one or more x-ray images.

32. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 31, wherein the image averaging is performed using a boxcar averaging technique.

33. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 31, wherein the image averaging is performed based on a weighted average.

34. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 28, wherein the enhancing comprises subtracting the composite image from the input x-ray image.

35. (Currently Amended) A method of processing a x-ray image, comprising:  
obtaining a first x-ray image;  
obtaining a second x-ray image, wherein the first and the second x-ray images are obtained using x-ray having an energy level, and at least a portion of the first x-ray image and at least a portion of the second x-ray image comprise images of a same portion of an object; and

determining a composite image based on at least a portion of the first and second x-ray images.

36. (Original) The method of claim 35, wherein the first and second x-ray images are generated in a sequence.

37. (Original) The method of claim 35, wherein the first and second x-ray images each contains an image of at least a portion of an animal body.

38. (Original) The method of claim 35, wherein the determining a composite image comprises subtracting at least a portion of the first x-ray image from at least a portion of the second x-ray image.

39. (Original) The method of claim 35, further comprising determining a value associated with a contrast of the composite image.

40. (Currently Amended) A system for processing a x-ray image, comprising:  
means for obtaining a first x-ray image;  
means for obtaining a second x-ray image, wherein the first and the second x-ray images are obtained using x-ray having an energy level, and at least a portion of the first x-ray image and at least a portion of the second x-ray image comprise images of a same portion of an object; and  
means for determining a composite image based on at least a portion of the first x-ray image and at least a portion of the second x-ray image.

41. (Original) The system of claim 40, wherein the means for determining a composite image comprises means for subtracting at least a portion of the first x-ray image from at least a portion of the second x-ray image.

42. (Original) The system of claim 40, further comprising means for determining a value associated with a contrast of the composite image.
43. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium having a set of stored instructions, the execution of which causes a process to be performed, the process comprising:  
obtaining a first x-ray image;  
obtaining a second x-ray image, wherein the first and the second x-ray images are obtained using x-ray having an energy level, and at least a portion of the first x-ray image and at least a portion of the second x-ray image comprise images of a same portion of an object; and  
determining a composite image based on at least a portion of the first and second x-ray images.
44. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 43, wherein the first and second x-ray images are generated in a sequence.
45. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 43, wherein the first and second x-ray images each contains an image of at least a portion of an animal body.
46. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 43, wherein the determining a composite image comprises subtracting at least a portion of the first x-ray image from at least a portion of the second x-ray image.
47. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 43, wherein the process further comprising determining a value associated with a contrast of the composite image.
48. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the feature comprises a moving feature.
49. (New) The system of claim 8, wherein the feature comprises a moving feature.

50. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein the feature comprises a moving feature.

51. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein the first and the second x-ray images are generated using an imaging device that remains stationary between a first time at which the first x-ray image is generated and a second time at which the second x-ray image is generated.

52. (New) The system of claim 40, wherein the means for obtaining the first x-ray image and the means for obtaining the second x-ray image comprises an imaging device that remains stationary between a first time at which the first x-ray image is generated and a second time at which the second x-ray image is generated.

53. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 43, wherein the first and the second x-ray images are generated using an imaging device that remains stationary between a first time at which the first x-ray image is generated and a second time at which the second x-ray image is generated.